

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

TWO NEW SUBSPECIES OF BIRDS FROM VENEZUELA,  
THE RUFOUS PHASE OF *PAUXI PAUXI*, AND  
OTHER NOTES

BY WILLIAM H. PHELPS AND WILLIAM H. PHELPS, JR.

Further study of the birds in our collection in Caracas and of specimens in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, have shown the following undescribed subspecies. We thank the Curators of these two institutions for access to their collections.

Specimens listed are in the Phelps Collection, Caracas, unless otherwise specified. Names of colors are capitalized when direct comparison has been made with Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature," 1912. Wing measurements are of the chord.

THE RUFOUS PHASE OF *Pauxi pauxi* (LINNÉ)

The monotypic genus *Pauxi* has three subspecies: *pauxi* Linné, of the mountains of the Caracas Region and the Andes of the Mérida Region and the adjacent part of Colombia; *gilliardi* Wetmore and Phelps, of the Perijá Mountains on both the Venezuelan and Colombian sides; and *unicornis* Bond and de Schauensee, of Bolivia.

Of the 64 specimens of the genus which we have been able to locate in American and European museums and in Venezuelan collections, only four are in the rufous phase described by Ogilvie-Grant in the Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. (22: 488, 1893) as the normal female adult plumage. The other 60 specimens, males and females, are in the black and white plumage. Those in the rufous plumage are as follows:

In the *American Museum of Natural History*—One unsexed, de-mounted specimen from the Elliott Collection, 6485, "Northwestern Venezuela." Subspecies *pauxi*.

In the *British Museum (Natural History)*—One adult female, "S. America." This specimen was first listed by Sclater and Salvin (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 519, 1870) and again by Ogilvie-Grant (*supra*). In both publications the rufous phase was described and, in the latter, as that of the adult female.

In the *Phelps Collection*, Caracas—One unsexed, Alto Río Negro, Sierra de Perijá, Zulia. Donated by the Pons Collection. For many years it was alive in the Maracaibo Zoo. Subspecies *gilliardi*.

In the *Pons Collection*, Maracaibo—One female, 1,110 Tocuco, Sierra de Perijá, Zulía. On deposit in the Phelps Collection. Subspecies *gilliardi*.

Ogilvie-Grant (*supra*) says: "Some females resemble the males in plumage and differ only in being somewhat smaller; but these are apparently abnormal specimens, or barren females which have assumed male plumage." We cannot agree that the abnormal plumage of the female is black and white, because it may be assumed that half of the 64 collected specimens in museums are females and, at the most, only four of these are rufous. In any case, at this time, we cannot say that the rufous phase is confined to the females but we do know that it is not exclusively juvenile because the Maracaibo Zoo specimen in our collection never changed the color of its plumage during the years that it lived there.

Why does the rufous phase occur and in such a small percentage (6.2)? Is it an occasional throwback to remote ancestors, as suggested to us by Dr. Alexander Wetmore? In this connection, we note that in the allied genus *Crax* (which has a crest instead of the bony casque) the females of the species *rubra* Linné (Mexico to Ecuador) are always rufous and the males are always black and white.

The 64 specimens of *Pauxi pauxi* located are in the Natural History Museums in the following cities: Amsterdam, 2 (*pauxi*); Berlin, 6 (*pauxi*); Cambridge, 1 (*pauxi*); Caracas, La Salle Museum, 2 (*gilliardi*); Caracas, Museo Ciencias Naturales, 1 (*pauxi*); Caracas, Phelps Collection, 10 (3 *pauxi*, 7 *gilliardi*, including 1 rufous); Frankfurt, 1 (*pauxi*); Leiden, 2 (*pauxi*); Maracaibo, Pons Collection, 5 (*gilliardi*, including 1 rufous); Maracay, Rancho Grande Biological Station, 2 (*pauxi*); New York, 7 (*pauxi*); Paris, 3 (*pauxi*); Philadelphia, 7 (5 *pauxi*, 2 *unicornis*); Pittsburgh, 2 (*pauxi*); Stockholm, 1 (*pauxi*); Washington, 5 (*gilliardi*). Of these 64 specimens, 26 are males, 14 females, and 24 unsexed.

*Colinus cristatus parvicristatus* (Gould)

*Ortyx parvicristatus* Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 11: 106, 1843. (Santa Fé de Bogotá; Fómeque, suggested by Chapman, Birds of Colombia, 1917: 199.)

That this subspecies inhabits Venezuela is shown by a further study of our specimens of *C. cristatus* from the southwestern part of the country. We find that our specimens from the upper Apure River, previously listed as *C. c. barnesi* Gilliard, and those of northwestern Bolívar and northern Territorio Amazonas, which we have referred to *C. c. sonnini* (Temminck), are the same as *parvicristatus* of the eastern Andes and the Llanos of the Meta River, in Colombia.

Our male specimens of *parvicristatus* differ from our *sonnini* in the following characters listed by Hellmayr (Birds of Americas, etc., I, 1, 1942): shorter crest (16 per cent); crown and crest darker, brown instead of whitish-buffy; and ear coverts darker, brown instead of grayish. Measurements of the crests of our specimens: 14 *parvirostris*, 19–27 mm (21); 20 *sonnini* (eastern Venezuela), 21–29 (25), making the *sonnini* crests 19 per cent longer.

The *parvicristatus* in our collection are: APURE—Guasdalito, 3 ♂, 1 ♀; Palmarito, 1 ♂, 3 ♀. TERR. AMAZONAS—Caño Cataniapo, 2 ♂; Caño Parucito, 1 ♂. BOLIVAR—Caño Guaniamo, Río Cuchivero, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; La Paragua, Río Paragua, 7 ♂, 5 ♀.

*Porzana albicollis typhoea* Peters

*Porzana albicollis typhoea* Peters, Proc. New Eng. Zool. Club, 13: 66, 1932. (Río Frío, Santa Marta, Colombia.)

One ♂, La Frontera (Venezuelan-Brazilian boundary). Collected 14 June 1948, by Manuel Castro, at 1,000 meters. This locality is between the Hato Divina Pastora (see 1 : 1,000,000 map of the American Geographical Society, Roraima sheet) and Cabulla Quitá on the trail toward Cerro Uei-tepui from Santa Elena, Bolívar. There are three "malocas" there of the Taurepanes Indians on the Venezuelan side of the boundary at 940 meters altitude.

This specimen extends the range of the subspecies to Brazil.

*Xiphorhynchus picus paraguanae*, new subspecies

*Type*: From Adícora, Península de Paraguaná, Falcón; sea level. No. 13277, Phelps Collection, Caracas. Adult male collected 5 May 1941, by Fulvio Benedetti. (On deposit at the American Museum of Natural History.)

*Diagnosis*: Differs from *X. picus picirostris* (Lafresnaye) of the Santa Marta region of Colombia and of the northwestern part of Lake Maracaibo; from *X. p. choica* (Wetmore and Phelps) of the north-central coast; and from *X. p. phalara* (Wetmore) of the northeastern coast and the Llanos, by a longer bill and more extensive white throat patch. From *X. p. longirostris* (Richmond) of Margarita Island it differs by lighter rufous, more yellowish, upper parts and a lighter brown abdomen.

*Range*: The arid coast region of the State of Falcón from the San Luis Mountains and the Paraguaná Peninsula westward to Casigua, and southward through northern Lara to Quebrada Arriba and Carora.

*Description of type*: Lores, top of head and nape, near to Bister with Cream-Buff, tear-shaped spots, much larger and Cartridge Buff spots on the nape; sides of head Cartridge Buff; ear coverts grayish; upper back Cinnamon-Brown merging into the Tawny of lower back and uropygium. Chin and throat Cartridge Buff; breast with Cartridge Buff elongated spots, the feathers edged with brownish black, these spots narrower and more elongated on the upper abdomen; sides, abdomen and under tail coverts Dresden Brown. Upper surface of wings Cinnamon-Brown × Tawny; outer primaries and tips of others dusky; under surface of remiges Orange-Cinnamon; under wing coverts and axillaries Pinkish-Cinnamon. Upper surface of tail Russet, under surface Cinnamon-Brown.

Bill (in life) "ivory;" feet "greenish;" iris "brown." Wing, 103 mm; tail, 80; exposed culmen, 30; culmen from base, 33; tarsus, 23.

*Remarks*: Sexes alike. Size similar to *picirostris* but bill longer (10 per cent). Range of measurements of specimens from the coast of

Falcón: 13 adult males, including type—wing, 98–109 (102.8) mm; tail, 80–89 (83.6); culmen from base, 32–36 (33.2); 12 adult females—wing, 95–106 (98.8); tail, 75–86 (78); culmen from base, 32–36 (34.1). Measurements of *picrostris* from Bonda, Santa Marta: 3 adult males—wing, 91–106 (97); tail, 75–81 (77.7); culmen from base, 27–30.5 (29.8); 5 adult females—wing, 91–100 (95.4); tail, 74–80 (77.6); culmen from base, 30–32.5 (30.8); 5 of undetermined sex—wing, 95–101 (99.4); tail, 70–83 (76.6); culmen from base, 28.5–32 (30.1).

## SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*Xiphorhynchus p. picrostris*.—COLOMBIA<sup>1</sup>: Santa Marta and Bonda, 3 ♂, 5 ♀, 14 (?). VENEZUELA: Zulia: Paraguaipoa, 1 ♂, 3 ♀; Cerro Alto del Cedro, boundary, 1 (?); Río Socuy, 7 ♂, 4 ♀, 3 juv.; Santa Cruz de Mara, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Palmarejo, Río Aurare, 2 ♂, 1 (?).

*X. p. saturator*.—Zulia: Las Múcuras, Perijá, to Mene Grande, var. locs.,<sup>2</sup> 25; Táchira: La Fría, 7 ♂, 3 ♀, 2 (?); Ureña, 4 ♂, 1 ♀.

*X. p. paraguanae*.—Falcón: Península de Paraganá (Inc. type), var. locs., 9 ♂, 14 ♀, 3 (?); Casigua, 1 ♂; Urumaco, 1 ♂; Dabajuro, 1 ♂; Sabaneta, 2 ♂, 1 ♀; Curimagua, 1 ♂; Lara: Carora, 6 ♂, 5 ♀, 1 (?); Quebrada Arriba, 2 ♂.

*X. p. choica*.—Falcón: Boca de Tocuyo, 2 ♀, 1 (?); San Juan de los Cayos, 1 ♀; Carabobo: Urama, 2 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 (?); Puerto Cabello, 2 ♂, 5 ♀, 1 (?); Miranda: Carenero, 4 ♂, 1 ♀; Distrito Federal: Los Caracas, 1 ♀.

*X. p. phalara*.<sup>2</sup>—Anzoátegui, 11; Sucre, 15; Guárico, 20; Portuguesa, 3; Apure, 29; Bolívar: Caicara, 11.

*X. p. longirostris*.—Isla de Margarita, var. locs., 28.

*Myiarchus crinitus* (Linné)

*Turdus crinitus* Linné, Syst. Nat., 10th ed., 1: 170, 1758. (Carolina.) 1 ♀, Machiques, Zulia (January); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, El Vigía, Mérida (November); 1 ♂, Zea, Mérida (November); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, San Fernando de Atabapo, Terr. Amazonas (November).

These specimens constitute the first records of this migrant in Venezuela. It has been recorded from Colombia.

*Myiophobus fasciatus fasciatus* (Müller)

*Muscicapa fasciata* P. L. S. Müller, Natursyst., Suppl., p. 172, 1776. (Cayenne.)

1 ♂, La Frontera (Venezuelan-Brazilian boundary). Collected 27 May 1948, by Manuel Castro at 1,000 meters. For this locality see above under *Porzana*.

This specimen extends the range of the subspecies to Brazil.

<sup>1</sup>Specimens in American Museum of Natural History.

<sup>2</sup>For localities see Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 65: 46, 1952.

**Thlypopsis fulviceps meridensis**, new subspecies

*Type*: From Zea, Mérida; 1,200 meters. No. 64576, Phelps Collection, Caracas. Adult male collected 8 November 1958, by Ramón Urbano. (Type on deposit at the American Museum of Natural History.)

*Diagnosis*: Differs from *T. f. fulviceps* Cabanis, of the Caracas and Turumiquire regions, by darker back, more grayish dusky green, less yellowish tint; and much darker below, with darker gray breast, sides and flanks; less extensive white on abdomen, and with whitish under tail coverts instead of buffy. From *T. f. obscuriceps* Phelps and Phelps, Jr., of Perijá, differs by olivaceous back instead of dark gray; darker gray below with whitish under tail coverts instead of buffy, and lighter rufous head. From *T. f. intensa* Todd, of Santander, Colombia, differs by olivaceous instead of dark gray back, head lighter rufous and darker gray below.

*Range*: Known by three specimens from the subtropical zone of the Mérida Region.

*Description of type*: Head, all around, Sanford's Brown; back and uropygium Deep Olive. Breast and sides Olive-Gray; flanks and shanks more olivaceous; center line of abdomen whitish; and under tail coverts Ivory-Yellow. Remiges and primary coverts Fuscous; other wing coverts and outer margins of secondaries and tertiaries uniform with back; outer margins of primaries light gray; under wing coverts and inner edges of remiges basally whitish. Rectrices greenish fuscous edged externally with Deep Olive.

Bill (in life) "black with grayish base;" feet "bluish gray;" iris "dark." Wing, 63 mm; tail, 51; exposed culmen, 9; culmen from base, 12; tarsus, 18.

*Remarks*: Size similar to *T. f. fulviceps*.<sup>3</sup> The juvenile specimen differs from the type: instead of the all-chestnut head the crown is olivaceous, merging into the olivaceous brown of nape and postauricular region, the lower face is yellowish olive and the lower chin and throat buffy white; the back and rump are more yellowish olive; and the gray of underparts paler.

## SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*Thlypopsis f. intensa*.—COLOMBIA: La Palmita, Santander,<sup>4</sup> 1 ♂ (type), 2 ♀.

*T. f. obscuriceps*.—Zulia: Sierra de Perijá, var. locs., 8.<sup>3</sup>

*T. f. meridensis*.—Táchira: Queniquea, 1 (?) juv.; Mérida: Zea-Tovar road, 1 ♂ (type); Altos de Estanques, 1 (?).<sup>1</sup>

*T. f. fulviceps*.<sup>3</sup>—Carabobo: 1; Aragua: var. locs., 2; Distrito Federal: 13; Miranda: 1; Anzoátegui: 6; Sucre: 9; Monagas: 7.

<sup>3</sup>For measurements and localities see Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 66 (139), 1953.

<sup>4</sup>Specimens in the Carnegie Museum.